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L'ÉVOLUTION DE L'ARBITRAGE INTERNATIONAL. Par Thomas Willing Balch. Philadelphia: Allen, Lane & Scott. 1908.

This monograph, which appeared in 1908 in the *Revue de Droit International et de Législation Comparée* at Brussels, has a special interest in its exposition of a plan for a Court of Arbitration made known by Emeric Crucé in 1623. This Court was to have been located permanently in Venice, and was to have had a jurisdiction similar to that now in course of acquisition by the Hague Tribunal. The fact that Crucé, who lived at the same period as did Grotius, had worked out a plan for the encouragement of peace which was so far in advance of the practice of his times is certainly worthy of record.

Mr. Balch also sketches the negotiations which led to the Treaty of Washington and to that Geneva award which settled what is known as the Alabama question, and practically erected a new rule in international law. He calls attention to the fact that this arbitration was one of the first in which the tribunal was composed of persons presumed to be publicists instead of rulers of states. He very properly places on record the services of Thomas Balch, Esq., of Philadelphia, in securing the arbitration and in making certain that there should be a true court.

In closing he calls attention to many varieties of international controversies which would not lend themselves readily to arbitration, but which must be settled by negotiation or by war.

If one may judge from the generalization with which the monograph opens, wars have been the principal occupation of mankind since the commencement of written history, and these wars have been caused by desire on the part of the people or rulers of one state to acquire some portion of the possessions of another state. It is hardly safe to assume that, because historians have given more attention to war than to periods of peace, mankind has been generally engaged in fighting. It may also be fairly questioned whether anger at some real or fancied wrong or insult has not been and is not still a more potent cause of war than any economic consideration.

National self-control may help peaceful settlements of controversies between states, just as individual self-control may

end what is left of private war ; but as states are made up of individuals, their public conduct is not likely to be on a higher ethical plan than is the private conduct of the majority of their citizens.

C. W. TURNER.

MODERN ENGLISH: ITS GROWTH AND PRESENT USE. By George Philip Krapp. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1909.

The volume on *Modern English*, by Professor George Philip Krapp, of the University of Cincinnati, is a notable contribution to the history of our language by one of the younger generation of American scholars. In general plan, the work may be said to occupy a position midway between Lounsbury and Emerson, with some of the excellent features familiar in the more recent works by Bradley and by Greenough and Kittredge. But Dr. Krapp has struck out a new path for himself, in the content of his volume, and particularly in the treatment of the theme. We must say that his point of view is one that has long seemed to us the sensible and the scholarly one ; though the authority of a ripe scholar is needed to maintain it. Dr. Krapp is bold enough to assert that, upon questions of "good English,"—that more or less veiled divinity of the older rhetoricians and grammarians,—as well as upon many points of linguistic history, it is not wise to be dogmatic. Certain facts of philology or of phonetics are facts, and may be accurately determined and rigidly stated. But standards of usage have shifted, are shifting, and will continue to shift ; moreover, even for the living speech, it is more than embarrassing, it is impossible, to determine what is the absolutely correct. The broad and, we should say, the scholarly, view taken by Dr. Krapp throughout may be illustrated by the following passage from the close of his chapter on "English Grammar" (page 323): "Book grammar is inadequate as a guide ; it is even at times false and misleading. The best grammar ever written is only a skeleton of the speech of some past period. To set book grammar up as the test and the source of authority in language inevitably leads to a stiff, artificial, and unexpressive use of language. The real guide to good grammar, to good English in all respects, is to be found